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# THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC

IN THE

## HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,

*FROM 1870 TO 1895.*

Prepared for the Y. M. C. A. and submitted for the Consideration of the  
Liquor Commission and the General Public.

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The tables given in this pamphlet have been compiled from the reports of the Chief Justice, the Collector-General of Customs, the Attorney-General, the Board of Health and the District Court of Honolulu. The object is to place before the Legislature and people of Hawaii a concise and accurate statement of the Liquor Traffic and its results.

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The liquor consumed in Hawaii in the years 1870-1895 inclusive would fill a trench, five feet wide and four feet deep, reaching from Honolulu Post Office to half a mile beyond Mr. Paul Isenberg's residence at Waialae (6½ miles) and still leave a tank holding 14,000 gallons unused.

If the population of Honolulu be taken as 25,000, in round numbers, and supposing each man, woman and child to drink one quart a day of liquor it would take them over twenty-six months to drink the 4,889,284 gallons of liquor consumed here during 1870-1895.

A glance at table No. 2 shows that the liquor traffic has grown from 11,000 gallons in 1865 to 479,000 gallons in 1895.

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In other words, in thirty years there has been an increase of over four thousand three hundred per cent in the consumption of liquors in Hawaii! A study of table No. 2 will also show that this appalling increase began with the systematic attempt made to break down the law prohibiting the sale of liquors to Hawaiians, which ended in the repeal of that law in 1882. From 1875 to the present the consumption of liquors has increased each half decade from nearly 100,000 to 200,000 gallons.

The results to the native Hawaiian have been most disastrous, and the rapid decrease of the race is very largely due to the liquor traffic and the vices which always follow in its train.

It is very difficult to arrive at the actual loss to the country through the use of intoxicants. All calculations have to be based upon the value, duties paid, prices etc. etc. of liquors actually imported and withdrawn for consumption. This does not give the real loss because it does not take into account the immense quantities of adulterated liquors sold during the past twenty-six years, under review. A calculation based upon the liquors actually passed through the Custom House and supposed to be sold pure will greatly under-state the loss to Hawaii.

A careful estimate made by Custom House Officials places the expense to the country of the liquor traffic for 1894 at \$1,250,000 at least.

At the same ratio the people of Hawaii have spent over \$17,500,000 for drink from 1870-1895.

This is not however the total expense or loss due to drink. Table No. 4 shows that from 1890-1893 (1894-1895 tables not yet printed) the convictions for crimes directly due to drink amounted to 32,600. This figures are the more significant when it is added that the total convictions for all other criminal offences was only 45,600. That is the one cause, liquor, produced seventy-one per cent as much crime as all other cause put together. A reference to table No. 3 shows that the total cost to the country of the Attorney General's and the Judiciary Departments for 1870-1894 was about \$4,000,000.

Taking into account the 32,600 convictions for crimes due to drink, and the thousands of cases tried for the same cause, but

escaping conviction, it is very safe to say that one-fourth of the costs of the Attorney General's and Judiciary Departments should be attributed to liquor as its share of the cost of courts, Sheriffs, Police, Jails etc. We thus have a total loss to the country through drink from 1870-1895 of \$19,000,000.

This amount will be better appreciated when stated in other ways. This money, spent on drink, would build a \$5,000 house on every 60 feet frontage on both sides of a street twenty-one and a half miles in length.

It would buy a \$2,000 lot and put a \$2,750 house upon each lot for every native Hawaiian and half-white (40,000) in the Hawaiian Islands.

It would build a compact city covering 3,000 acres, containing 8,000 houses, each house averaging to cost \$2,375.

It would build a railroads to every accessible point on Hawaii, Maui, Oahu and Kauai in addition to building and equipping a cable from Honolulu to America and Japan.

No doubt liquor men will point to the \$5,000,000 which during 1870-1895 the government has received from the liquor traffic in the way of duties, licenses and fines of its victims, as an evidence of how the use of intoxicants has aided the Hawaiian treasury. Men, do not as a rule, favor a business man, nor think him financially helpful who puts one of his hands into a man's pocket takes out four dollars and after keeping three, returns one with the remark: "You see how much I help you." But, so far, no attempt has been made to estimate indirect losses due to drink. We have received in the average about \$190,000 yearly during 1870-1895 in duties, licenses and fines from the liquor traffic. That sum does not begin to pay, for the annual loss to the country of money diverted from enterprises of a character to enrich the nation; for the withdrawal from ordinary business of the men employed in the liquor traffic; for the destruction of the wage-earning and saving power of those who indulge in liquor; for the loss of life directly due to drink; to say nothing of the progeny of poverty, moral and physical weakness, and vice which liquor breeds and fosters and passes down to the coming generations as its legacy.



What shall we do about it? Every one admits the evil results, but it is difficult to find common ground where all may stand. Prohibition is effective only where the great mass of the people are thoroughly in sympathy and loyally assist in the enforcement of the law against the importation and use of liquor as a beverage. Have we reached that stage in Hawaii? To leave the liquor business as it is means a steady growth of its evil influences and effects. The history of the traffic here for the past thirty years proves this beyond a doubt. The extremists of either of the foregoing methods of handling the traffic will never be able to find common ground with anyone else. It remains to find some plan upon which men who recognize the evils of the traffic and wish to reduce and destroy them as soon as possible can agree. A half or quarter loaf is better than no bread to a hungry man. The following points are largely taken from the liquor laws as operated in Norway and South Carolina, United States.

1st. Combine the licenses and instead of having thirty-five or more have one or two companies handle the whole traffic but paying the same amount for their licenses as is now paid for all. That is practically what we have now—two firms in Honolulu really control the liquor business of the Hawaiian Islands.

2nd. Limit the capital of the company or companies to a certain sum. A paid up capital of \$250,000 would easily handle the whole liquor traffic of Hawaii. Allow a reasonable amount for expenses of management and say 7 per cent on actual capital used, the balance of profits to be paid into the Hawaiian treasury. This is the local plan adopted and working very successfully for many years in Norway. This method prevents the liquor dealer from pushing the traffic in intoxicants as he can only get a small percent on his actual capital however large the quantity of liquor sold.

3rd. Restrict the sale to say two places in Honolulu, thus cutting of the heavy expenses of running fourteen retail saloons and giving business men the chance to secure some value sites for business purposes.





4th. Confine the sale of liquors to ordinary business hours.

5th. Allow no liquor to be sold except in sealed packages. No package to be broken, nor liquor consumed upon, or in connection with the premises where the liquor is sold. This will break up the treating system which is the chief method of recruiting candidates for drunkards.

6th. Restrict all sales to cash.

7th. Place heavy penalties upon sales to minors, and if persisted in, follow by forfeiture of license.

8th. Provide for frequent and careful inspection of sealed packages by the government chemist. The government label being upon each package sold. This will insure that pure liquors only will be sold.

9th. Have all accounts audited quarterly by the Auditor-General. These points give in the main the features of the Norwegian system with some modifications from the South Carolina law.

The above system if adopted in Hawaii would return into the treasury from \$500,000 to \$750,000 of the profits of the liquor traffic.

Part of this could be used for the purchase and maintenance of a swift revenue cutter, the possession of which would largely prevent opium smuggling and enable the government to cut its military expenses down to at least one-half of the present amount.

Part of this sum, annually received, could be spent in providing proper sewerage systems for Honolulu and the other towns of these Islands.

Part in acquiring the large tracts of lands now unused and by means of small loans assist Hawaiians, Americans or European to settle upon small farms thus giving us a stable reliable population. There are many other philanthropic and educational purposes which could be substantially aided out of the large profits of the traffic in liquor. There is no reason why the result would not be here as in Norway, viz: the evils of drink would rapidly decrease, and with the death of those now given to drink, from long habit, the liquor traffic would gradually diminish and die out.



TABLE NO. 1.

**COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING ANNUAL LIQUOR CONSUMPTION 1870-95.**  
SPIRITS.

YEAR.	ALCOHOL.	BRANDY.	BITTERS AND CORDIALS.	GIN.	RUM.	WHISKEY.	SAMSHOO.
	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1870 . . . . .	603	5,910	247	6,307	509	4,232	.....
1871 . . . . .	687	5,365	181	6,371	500	4,077	.....
1872 . . . . .	688	5,105	207	6,392	420	4,436	.....
1873 . . . . .	771	5,344	120	7,779	378	4,632	.....
1874 . . . . .	624	4,789	137	6,057	406	4,814	.....
1875 . . . . .	789	5,506	115	7,409	412	5,641	.....
1876 . . . . .	757	4,981	114	6,851	172	4,821	.....
1877 . . . . .	862	6,428	131	8,301	497	5,356	.....
1878 . . . . .	818	10,470	278	12,088	500	6,095	.....
1879 . . . . .	1,025	14,010	176	11,998	641	8,578	.....
1880 . . . . .	1,665	18,136	363	11,664	464	10,223	5,527
1881 . . . . .	1,516	18,178	198	12,154	391	11,078	9,429
1882 . . . . .	1,999	19,418	171	16,143	313	12,191	15,915
1883 . . . . .	2,360	23,701	211	19,666	465	15,680	18,897

1884 .....	3,627	23,116	500	21,144	361	12,764	22,663
1885 .....	3,392	16,412	431	20,792	294	12,021	26,773
1886 .....	3,707	18,404	501	32,216	638	16,495	28,742
1887 .....	1,025	13,650	405	19,738	586	11,822	27,687
1888 .....	1,393	11,570	393	17,847	647	11,127	25,270
1889 .....	1,622	10,046	569	22,890	256	14,066	25,367
1890 .....	1,807	10,198	630	29,605	329	16,171	30,144
1891 .....	2,665	9,580	615	31,435	199	16,055	27,990
1892 .....	3,661	8,991	1,421	25,397	250	16,683	30,038
1893 .....	2,382	4,506	340	17,320	242	13,946	7,277
1894 .....	913	4,256	426	12,247	100	11,434	11,760
1895 .....	1,531	4,125	364	12,991	117	12,222	8,303
Total Gallons of each Liquor....	42,889	281,195	9,244	402,782	10,087	266,060	321,752
Average yearly Consumption ..	1,650	10,854	356	15,492	388	10,233	20,109

Total Spirits..... 1,335,009 Gallons.

Restrictions on furnishing liquor to Hawaiians removed 1882.

TABLE NO. 1.—Continued.

COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING ANNUAL LIQUOR CONSUMPTION 1870-95.

WINES.

YEAR.	CHAMPAGNE.		CALIFORNIA.	LIGHT OR EUROPEAN.	PORT.	SHERRY.	SAKI.
	Doz. Qts.	Doz. Pts.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1870.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	386	1,393	.....
1871.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	327	951	.....
1872.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	439	983	.....
1873.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	446	1,192	.....
1874.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	370	849	.....
1875.....	.....	.....	.....	* 2,273	420	839	.....
1876.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	526	694	.....
1877.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	358	694	.....
1878.....	.....	.....	.....	* 2,697	342	1,941	.....
1879.....	.....	.....	.....	* 3,701	982	401	.....
1880.....	.....	.....	.....	* 7,220	912	862	.....
1881.....	.....	.....	.....	* 6,611	940	1,630	.....
1882.....	.....	.....	.....	* 6,850	989	673	.....
1883.....	.....	.....	.....	* 7,456	1,711	1,368	.....
1884.....	.....	.....	.....	* 9,504	1,781	829	.....

1885.....	273	377	4,487	12,136	2,114	971	.....
1886.....	796	872	37,880	5,188	1,821	979	.....
1887.....	469	583	64,696	3,304	715	617	.....
1888.....	334	410	71,322	2,410	696	429	.....
1889.....	288	983	72,281	3,678	541	363	.....
1890.....	480	599	113,247	1,403	444	366	.....
1891.....	434	398	136,698	5,197	291	361	.....
1892.....	575	470	98,060	6,262	3,607	490	.....
1893.....	188	368	103,402	3,804	3,280	1,449	.....
1894.....	247	183	124,729	.....	4,045	1,055	83,095
1895.....	230	211	132,356	922	.....	.....	146,630
Total gals. of each Liquor.	{ 12,942 * Gals.	8,181 * Gals.	959,149	90,616	28,483	22,379	229,725
Average Yearly Con- sumption.	{ 1,177 }	744	87,195	5,034	1,135	895	114,862

Total Wines.....1,351,475 gallons.

\* Includes Champagne and California Wines.

Restrictions on furnishing liquor to Hawaiians removed 1882.

TABLE NO. 1.—Continued.  
 COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING ANNUAL LIQUOR CONSUMPTION, 1870-1895.  
 MALT LIQUORS.

YEAR.	ALE, BEER AND PORTER.			SUNDRIES.
	Doz. Quarts.	Doz. Pints.	Gallons.	Gallons.
1870.....				361
1871.....				358
1872.....				231
1873.....				550
1874.....				420
1875.....				330
1876.....				*791
1877.....				*1,596
1878.....	3,033	6,671		*1,128
1879.....	11,202	14,772	8,015	*1,654
1880.....	9,584	10,261	4,448	807
1881.....	15,710	16,468	726	751
1882.....	14,610	12,347	65	741
1883.....	21,610	22,160	8,042	735
1884.....	21,356	21,854	10,876	842
1885.....	27,475	21,399	3,861	.....
1886.....	30,962	22,559	11,990	.....
1887.....	27,553	19,138	14,890	409

1888.....	25,591	17,144	40,327	251
1889.....	26,062	10,073	61,863	987
1890.....	42,659	14,161	73,741	458
1891.....	44,375	22,413	50,011	425
1892.....	15,521	35,476	29,964	†5,593
1893.....	30,383	11,144	47,327	†8,514
1894.....	32,217	10,691	57,230	160
1895.....	24,619	9,352	64,610	†6,002
Total Gallons of each Liquor	1,273,566 * Gallons.	447,124 * Gallons.	488,026	34,094
Average yearly Consumption	70,754	24,840	28,707	1,421
Total Malt Liquors.....				2,202,810 Gallons.
Total of all Liquors.....				4,889,284 Gallons.

\* Includes Champagne and California Wines.

† Sundries and China Wines.

‡ Chiefly Saki.

TABLE NO. 2.

## COMPARISON OF LIQUOR CONSUMPTION BY HALF DECADAL YEARS.

YEAR.	SPIRITS—GALS.	WINES—GALS.	BEERS—GALS.	TOTAL—GALS.
1860	10,112	3,428	671	14,211
1865	10,209	1,057	479	11,745
1870	17,808	1,779	361	19,948
1875	19,872	3,532	330	23,734
1880	48,042	8,994	49,438	106,474
1885	80,115	21,092	118,384	219,591
1890	88,854	117,798	223,417	430,069
1895	39,653	280,914	158,497	479,064

TABLE NO. 3.

	JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT. This includes salaries of Judges, Magistrates, etc.	ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTM'NT Includes salaries of Attorney-Gen- eral, Deputy, Marshal, Police, Jailors, Guards, Support and Maintenance of Prisoners.
1870-72	\$ 73,562.61	\$ 88,412.17
1872-74	72,245.64	97,097.00
1874-76	70,441.62	95,864.47
1876-78	71,743.43	95,861.55
1878-80	79,666.97	123,663.73
1880-82	92,870.35	163,527.29
1882-84	115,891.99	266,730.45
1884-86	129,056.84	279,871.80
1886-88	154,566.08	279,819.29
1888-90	165,748.43	259,236.70
1890-92	175,751.50	391,591.71
1892-94	174,550.92	450,853.28
	\$1,376,096.38	\$2,592,529.44



TABLE NO. 4.

**CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS—VIOLATIONS OF LIQUOR  
LAWS—ASSAULTS—ASSAULTS AND BATTERIES—  
AFFRAYS, ETC.—COMPARED WITH CONVIC-  
TIONS FOR ALL OTHER CRIMINAL  
OFFENCES.**

YEARS.	Drunkenness and Viola- tions of Li- quor Law.	Assaults, Bat- teries and Affrays.	Total of Drunk- enness, &c., and 75 per cent. of As- saults, Bat- teries, &c.	Total of all other convic- tions for crimes in Ha- waii.	Percentage due to Li- quor con- victions for all other crimes.
1870-71	1,083	618	1,545	2,810	55
1872-73	853	989	1,594	2,406	66
1874-75	1,099	692	1,618	3,921	41
1876-77	781	726	1,314	2,555	51
1878-79	1,549	959	2,269	7,336	31
1880-81	2,049	1,197	2,946	3,903	75
1882-83	3,040	1,523	4,183	3,536	118
1884-85	2,513	1,594	3,707	3,747	99
1886-87	2,172	1,343	3,180	3,442	92
1888-89	2,878	1,253	3,817	4,078	94
1890-91	2,993	1,263	3,941	3,629	109
1892-93	1,627	1,147	2,488	4,304	58
1894-95	*	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total...	22,637	13,304	32,602	45,667	71

\* Not yet published.

TABLE NO. 5.

Year.	Value of Liquors withdrawn and paying Duty.	Duties paid on Liquors with- drawn for Con- sumption.	Received from Wholesale and Retail License for Spirits and Awa.	
1870..	\$ 13,590.06	\$ 57,846.93	1870-72	\$ 28,215.15
1871..	24,164.34	53,521.79	1872-74	28,185.37
1872..	24,666.03	55,020.11	1874-76	24,950.05
1873..	14,133.89	59,437.06	1876-78	36,139.75
1874..	25,263.56	53,437.23	1878-80	35,855.75
1875..	19,890.33	58,746.59	1880-82	41,667.87
1876..	11,827.34	53,099.44	1882-84	51,295.24
1877..	27,909.49	65,255.45	1884-86	64,258.25
1878..	13,246.42	89,486.80	1886-88	73,694.50
1879..	34,931.84	121,877.33	1888-90	71,128.10
1880..	26,891.37	156,169.85	1890-92	63,490.62
1881..	39,335.49	177,126.03	1892-94	61,820.55
1882..	26,383.65	206,065.82		
1883..	36,759.24	255,293.41		
1884..	38,216.05	270,574.77		\$ 580,681.20
1885..	46,300.29	247,769.93		
1886..	106,812.97	281,750.42		
1887..	118,866.09	247,023.95		
1888..	114,963.13	242,416.45		
1889..	131,113.17	259,435.64		
1890..	179,187.49	337,490.98		
1891..	194,732.20	334,159.28		
1892..	155,449.41	259,537.14		
1893..	131,828.37	262,663.48		
1894..	138,004.61	202,039.64		
1895..	145,682.61	216,474.08		
	\$ 1,840,149.44	\$ 4,623,719.60		

## TABLE NO. 6.

### NATIONALITY OF THOSE CONVICTED FOR DRUNKENNESS.

NATIONALITY.	1886-87	1888-89	1890-91	1892-93	Total 8 years.	Per Cent
Chinese . . . . .	23	6	16	7	52	.391
Japanese . . . . .	26	46	101	88	261	2.967
Portuguese . . . . .	130	154	140	56	480	5.457
Hawaiian . . . . .	1162	1455	1648	757	5022	57.100
All other Nationalities	630	977	930	443	2980	33.882
Total . . . . .	1971	2638	2835	1351	8795	100.000

## TABLE NO. 7.

PERCENTAGE OF THE DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES TO TOTAL  
POPULATION OF HAWAII. PERCENTAGE OF CON-  
VICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS, ASSAULTS,  
BATTERIES, ETC., OF DIFFERENT  
NATIONALITIES TO TOTAL  
POPULATION.

NATIONALITY.	PER. CENT. OF POPULATION.	PER CENT. OF CON- VICTIONS, ETC., 1886-1893.
Chinese . . . . .	15.	.591
Japanese . . . . .	24.	2.967
Portuguese . . . . .	13.	5.457
Hawaiians & Half-Castes.	40.	57.100
All Other Nationalities ..	8.	33.882

Above estimate of population is by Prof. Alexander—June, 1895.

TABLE NO. 8.

NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS PER HUNDRED OF POPULATION.  
1886-1893.

NATIONALITY.	PERCENTAGE OF CONVIC- TIONS FOR DRUNKEN- NESS AND VIOLATIONS OF LIQ' OR LAWS, AS- SAULTS, BATTERIES, ETC.	
Chinese .....	.35	....
Japanese .....	1.09	....
Portuguese .....	3.69	....
Hawaiians .....	12.55	....
All Other Nationalities ..	37.25	....



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